

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY China/USSR

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SUBJECT Relationship Between New China News Agency
and TASS

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SUPPLEMENT TO
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1. The Soviet news agency, TASS, has branch offices and its own radio facilities in all principal cities in China.* It sends dispatches without coordinating them with the New China News Agency (NCNA) and without obtaining prior approval from the Chinese Communist government.
2. NCNA news releases on international affairs are cleared with TASS officials, and its propaganda line on international affairs is clearly defined by TASS. In practice, all NCNA releases on important international situations are actual quotations from TASS releases, and NCNA releases on routine international matters are summaries or rewrites of TASS releases. In both instances, NCNA releases are accredited to TASS.
3. NCNA's general propaganda lines on internal affairs in China are set by the Chinese Communist central government authorities with the assistance of TASS authorities, who ascertain that the propaganda conforms to overall Soviet policy.
4. NCNA has its own correspondents in Moscow, Prague, and other capitals of Communist countries, but it cannot send dispatches from these areas without approval of local Communist authorities.
5. TASS gives NCNA a free hand in reporting news affecting overseas Chinese in Southeast Asia. However, TASS controls all other news releases on Southeast Asia, especially those concerning local Communist activities. Actually, when TASS and NCNA branch agencies operate in the same places in Southeast Asia, the TASS branch office supervises NCNA activities and releases, although they are theoretically independent units. In areas where only NCNA operates, it acts as an agency for both TASS and NCNA, complying with TASS policy for that area and sending all dispatches from the area through NCNA's office in China to TASS representatives in China.

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* Comment. The location of branch offices of TASS in China and information on some personnel within TASS was reported in [REDACTED]

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